

# Trinity Tidings

May 23, 2024

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## THANK YOU APPLETON CONFERENCE!



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of the Appleton Conference (AC), East Central Synod of Wisconsin (ECSW), ELCA. From the dues paid by Trinity and the other Appleton Conference churches, the Conference allocates grants each year to ministries at the congregation, community, and international level. Trinity's Community Meals ministry received a \$250 grant from the Appleton Conference. To receive this funding, the project must meet seven criteria. Examples of the criteria are supporting local congregational outreach, providing help to people in need, etc. Big thanks to the Appleton Conference!

Our next community meal is Wednesday, May 29. Grilled hotdogs will be served from 5-6 PM. If you know of someone who could benefit from this meal, please direct them to Trinity's parking lot on Wednesday, May 29. If the person does not have transportation to pick up the meal, please consider waiting in line and delivering the meal to them.

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May 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday, May 26

- Worship 9 AM

Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28

- Community Meals Packing 5 PM

Wednesday, May 29

- Community Meals Distribution 5 PM

Thursday, May 30

- Bible Study 9 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6:00 PM

Friday, May 31

Saturday, June 1

Sunday, June 2

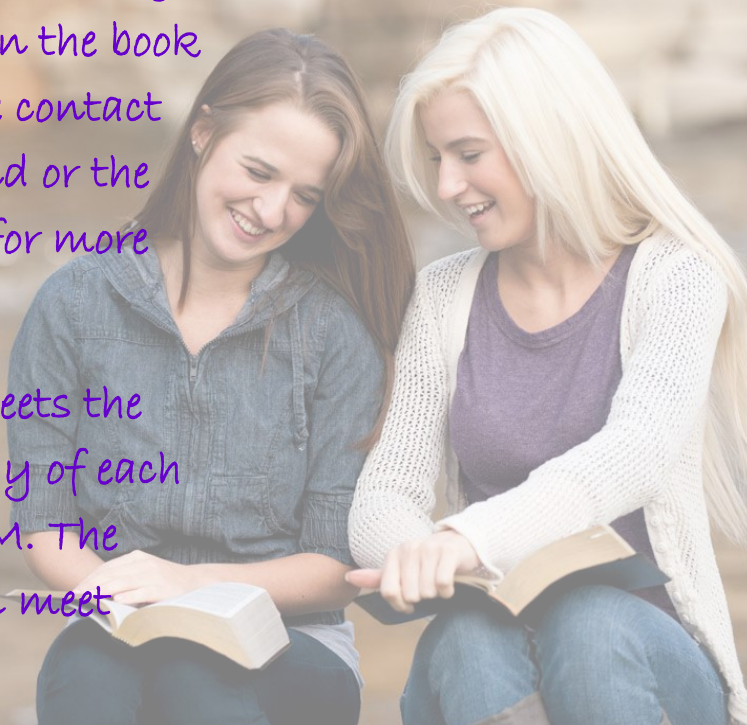
- Worship 9 AM

Click [here](#) for the most current calendar.

Click [here](#) for worship.

Ruth Circle is starting a new study on the book of Acts. Please contact Carol Cleveland or the church office for more information.

Ruth Circle meets the second Monday of each month at 7 PM. The next circle will meet June 10th.



Office Hours:  
8 AM - 12 noon  
Monday - Thursday  
Other times by appointment



- Wendy Sasman - health concerns
- Jeremy & Julia Martinson - friend of Amy Kuehl, Jeremy is recovering from surgery
- Tony Krajna - friend of Dan Wesenick, cancer
- Jim Schmidt - friend of Dyreson's, recovering from surgery
- Shelley Langkau - cousin of Vigil's, cancer
- Bryan Price - friend of Vigil's, cancer
- Sue Luba - recovering from surgery
- Carla Fulcer - friend of Sue Luba, cancer
- Keith Krueger
- Mary Jo Driessen - friend of Wesenick's, cancer
- Paul Bock - recovering from surgery
- Brian Miller - health issues
- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- Ginny Halverson - friend of Lehl's, recovering from a stroke
- Peter H. - friend of Dyreson's, leukemia
- Julie Smith - daughter of Jean Smith, recovering from transplant surgery
- Leslie Larson - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Mike Loppnow - cancer
- Beth Cochran - friend of Dan Wegner, health concerns
- Kaden Wegner - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, health concerns
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer



The council welcomes Terry Wegner who has agreed to fill the empty council position.  
Thank you, Terry, for agreeing to serve!



**MONDAY, MAY 27TH**

**10:00 A.M. AT**

**FLORAL HILL CEMETERY GAZEBO**

**Guest speaker  
Terry Lathrop**

**The American Legion Auxiliary**

will be providing a

**Sloppy Joe Luncheon**

following the ceremony at the

**American Legion Post 263**

840 E. North Water St., New London









## Holy Trinity

### First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

*This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

### Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's

name;

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

### Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17

*In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.*

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.



# Trinity SUNDAY

"Very truly, I tell you,  
we speak of what we  
know and testify to what  
we have seen."

John 3:11, NRSV

## **Gospel: John 3:1-17**

*Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him,

"How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

## **Serving at worship on Sunday**

### **Ushers**

Kirk Van Dreel, Cindy Wolford

### **Lector**

Cindy Wolford

### **Communion Assistant**

Bill Krejcarek

### **Slides**

Myla Immel

### **Livestream**

Mark Moser

### **Altar Guild**

Carol Cleveland, Cindy Wolford





# Sermon Notes

## Trinity Sunday

The new army recruit was given guard duty at 2 a.m. He did his best for a while, but at about 4 a.m. he went to sleep. He awakened to find the officer of the day standing before him. Remembering the heavy penalty for being asleep on guard duty, this smart young man kept his head bowed for another moment then looked upward and said, "A-a-a-men!"

I thought on this Memorial Day weekend I would share a little military humor. We honor those who gave their lives following orders and fulfilling their duty to our country.

Those of you who have served know that obeying orders is not optional, and that there are consequences for not following them.

This recruit sure came up with a clever way to cover up his failure.

Some unfortunately view God as sort of a cosmic drill sergeant, or a commanding officer.

God gives orders through the law and those who disobey get punished.

God cannot be fooled.

On this Holy Trinity Sunday, we celebrate a God nothing at all like a military leader.

We celebrate a God who is a relationship of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Three distinct persons yet one God.

God is hidden, impossible to comprehend, but also revealed in creation, and in the person of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

When you get beyond all of the philosophical and theological jargon we believe in a God of loving relationship.

Relationship is what God is about: relationship of three persons lived out in us.

That is what Paul is talking about in Romans.

Paul argues that we are adopted children of God and not slaves. Many religions of those times believed humans are slaves to the gods.

Paul describes the difference between the two.

Being a son or child, in contrast to being a slave at that time, afforded one a different, privileged status. Children, even adopted children, were afforded intimacy, status, and freedom in high-status Roman households. Their social relationships were ordered by free, not forced, obligation. This intimacy is indicated by the fact that believers are able to cry out "Abba! Father!" "Abba" is the Aramaic word for "father," which, while indicating closeness, was not a childish way to refer to a male parent, contrary to popular belief. The word was used by both children and adults.

Both "Abba" (abba) and "Father" (patēr) would have been inappropriate terms for an enslaved person to use with respect to the head of the household. While one who was enslaved held an obligation to the house, it was a different kind than that of a child.

The child is loved unconditionally but the slave is not.

Living the life of a Christian is to live a life of a personal relationship with a loving God, not a slave owner.

God has given us the law to follow for our benefit, but we can follow it out of grateful response to what he has done for us in Jesus and not as a slave.

We make ourselves slaves when we do not listen to God and do things our way. Paul calls this living "in the flesh."

In contrast Paul says we have been adopted as God's children and can live according to the Spirit.

Our value and self-worth is not dependent upon what we do but rather upon what God has

done for us in Christ.

We have been chosen, adopted out of God's grace and mercy into a relationship with the loving Triune God.

Philip Yancey describes this relationship this way:

**JESUS FORGAVE A THIEF DANGLING ON A CROSS, KNOWING FULL WELL THE THIEF HAD CONVERTED OUT OF PLAIN FEAR. THAT THIEF WOULD NEVER STUDY THE BIBLE, NEVER ATTEND SYNAGOGUE OR CHURCH, AND NEVER MAKE AMENDS TO THOSE HE HAD WRONGED. HE SIMPLY SAID "JESUS REMEMBER ME," AND JESUS PROMISED, "TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE." IT WAS ANOTHER SHOCKING REMINDER THAT GRACE DOES NOT DEPEND ON WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR GOD BUT RATHER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.**

**-Philip Yancey**

Our faith is in a Triune God who chooses us, who seeks us out and not the other way around.

We can live as beloved children of a God who made us, sent us his son to die for our sins and rose again from the dead, and guides us through the Holy Spirit so that we are never alone.

We are all called to duty.

We are called to serve a Triune God who loves us as his children and not as slaves.

We serve one another and our neighbors out of the love that God has first given us. Amen.

**Congratulations to Andrew Thompson and family on his ordination. He has been called to serve as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pepin, WI.**





# RUNNING the RACE

## SUMMER Reading Plan

### Life – and exercise – move at different paces for different people.

Some enjoy leisurely walks, strolls or rolls, while others speed-walk, jog or even sprint. Some people have a 26.2 sticker on their vehicle, indicating they've run a marathon, while others boast of running a half-marathon (13.1) or no marathon (0.0)!

Thankfully, you don't have to be an athlete of any kind to run the Christian "race." The Bible uses running metaphors, however, to encourage followers of Jesus to train, focus, persevere and attain the heavenly prize. Use this Summer Reading Plan to strengthen your faith and your relationship with Jesus. Complete one square each day or every other day, and you'll journey through significant chunks of the New Testament this summer. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you as a "running partner"!



### Mile 1 Read *Philippians 1*

Re-read verse 6 and consider how your faith journey is a work in progress.

### Mile 3 Read *Philippians 3*

Look back at verses 13 and 14, and brainstorm a list of ways to keep your eyes on the heavenly "prize."

### Mile 5 Read *Colossians 1*

Re-read verse 11. Name three specific ways God gives you strength and endurance.

### Mile 7 Read *Colossians 3*

Look back at verses 23 and 24. What keeps you running for God, not for other people or for personal accolades?

### Mile 9 Read *1 Timothy 1*

Doodle about how God's law keeps you from wandering away from him.

### Mile 11 Read *1 Timothy 3*

What aspects of staying "above reproach" are most challenging for you as a follower of Jesus?

### Mile 13 Read *1 Timothy 5*

Anonymously perform a kind deed for someone in your family or community.

### Mile 15 Read *2 Timothy 1*

Describe specific ways your life reveals a spirit of power, a spirit of love and a spirit of self-discipline.

### Mile 17 Read *2 Timothy 3*

Add a daily Bible-reading time to your spiritual training regimen.

### Mile 19 Read *James 1*

Look back at verse 12. Reflect on how God has kept his promises to you. How does that help you during times of trial?

### Mile 21 Read *James 3*

Re-read verses 17 and 18. Pray for godly wisdom as you continue your faith journey.

### Mile 23 Read *James 5*

After re-reading verse 19, think of ways to reach out to people who have wandered away from God.

### Mile 25 Read *John 20:1-18*

Consider how the good news of Jesus' resurrection gives you reasons to run and share the Gospel message.

### ➔ Mile 2 Read *Philippians 2*

Re-read verse 5 and pray to have the same attitude as Jesus.

### Mile 4 Read *Philippians 4*

Write verse 13 on a sticky note and place it where you'll see it daily.

### Mile 6 Read *Colossians 2*

Review verses 6 and 7, make a gratitude list and say a prayer of thanks to God.

### Mile 8 Read *Colossians 4*

Write a note or letter to someone who needs spiritual encouragement.

### Mile 10 Read *1 Timothy 2*

Re-read verses 5 and 6. Offer praise to Jesus for being our mediator and ransom — and for running the race perfectly for us.

### Mile 12 Read *1 Timothy 4*

As you exercise, ponder verse 8 and brainstorm ways to build your spiritual muscles.

### Mile 14 Read *1 Timothy 6*

Review verses 11 and 12. In what ways might faith be viewed as a fight? To whom have you made bold profession of your faith?

### Mile 16 Read *2 Timothy 2*

Re-read verse 5. The next time you participate in or watch a sporting event, compare the value of God's "victor's crown" to earthly achievements.

### Mile 18 Read *2 Timothy 4*

Memorize verse 7. Think about people you know who have already "finished the race." How can their example strengthen you?

### Mile 20 Read *James 2*

Put your faith into action today by meeting someone's needs.

### Mile 22 Read *James 4*

Review verse 8. Confess your sins to God and ask him to come near you.

### Mile 24 Read *Luke 15:11-32*

When have you run away from God? What brought you back? When have you seen proof of God running toward you (see verse 20, as well as James 4:8)?

### ➔ Mile 26 Read *1 John 1*

Re-read verse 7. Write "Walk in the Light" on a sticky note, and place it by a lamp or light switch.

**Mile 26.2 Read *Revelation 2:10*** Praise God aloud: "Come, Lord Jesus!"